



Session 5: COURAGEOUS
Suggested Week of Use: April 3, 2016
Core Passages: Acts 4:1-13

News Story Summary

This month, 11 year old Katie Hurley became just the second Girl Scout in Colorado history, to receive the Girl Scout Medal of Honor, When her mother, a diabetic, became unresponsive due to dangerously low blood sugar in the middle of the night, Katie called 911, and her calm demeanor in the midst of a stressful situation undoubtedly saved her mother's life.

Ironically, it was the experience of selling Girl Scout cookies that gave this "painfully shy" girl the confidence she needed to deal with the 911 operator. Selling Girl Scout cookies forced Katie to interact with strangers, and it helped her warm up to people over time. Her mother said if it wasn't for the Girl Scouts, her daughter would probably still be too shy to talk to strangers.

For more on this story, enter the phrase "Selling cookies helped Girl Scout find courage that saved mother's life" in your search engine.)

Focus Attention

Before group members arrive, write the following phrases on individual placards: Reading Scripture aloud in a small group, Answering questions about your faith from someone who is openly hostile to Christianity, Inviting a co-worker to church, Visiting a group member in the hospital, Asking your server at the restaurant how you can pray for him or her. Lead your group to rank them, 1 to 5, with 1 taking the least courage and 5 taking the most.

Ask: How can stepped out of your comfort zone in small ways, give you the courage to step out in bigger ways? How could success at doing one of the actions on the placards make it easier for you to do another action?

Share the news story about the shy Girl Scout who was able to save her mother's life. Discuss the impact selling cookies had on her overcoming her shyness. Explain that in today's Bible passage, Peter and John had the courage to proclaim to a hostile audience that "there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to people, and we must be saved by it." Challenge the group to look for things that gave them this boldness.

Challenge

Emphasize that verse 13 helps us understand what made Peter and John so courageous. It wasn't their education or their training. It was simply that "they had been with Jesus." Jesus had spent three years with them teaching them how to be faithful in small things, such as letting Jesus teach a crowd from one of their fishing boats (Luke 5:1) to helping Jesus feed the multitude (John 6:1-14).

Remind the group of the girl scout who was recognized for calling the 911 operator. Explain that like Peter and John, and like the Girl Scout in the news story, stepping out of our comfort zone in small ways can give us the courage we need to do larger things. Refer back to the list of actions on the placards used in the Focus Attention activity above. Lead group members to pray that God would give them an opportunity to complete one of these actions this week.